

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 NIC-01 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 131725Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2977

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD OPS AEAGG OCO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 0285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, WB

SUBJECT: 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT

REF

A. STATE 013572 (NOTAL)

B. BERLIN 44 (NOTAL)

1. SENAT HAS INFORMED US THAT POLITICAL CLEARANCE FOR ITS AIRLIFT ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION PLANS HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED FROM BONN. FOLLOWING SCENARIO INCORPORATES SENAT'S LATEST PROPOSALS PRESENTED TO ALLIED MISSIONS TOGETHER WITH OUR OWN THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS: AS CHAIRMAN OF MONTH WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS ALONG SAME LINES.

2. HONORED GUESTS WOULD INCLUDE THOSE SET FORTH PARA 4, REF B; WE HAVE INFORMED SENAT IT SHOULD PROCEED TO EXTEND THOSE INVITATIONS. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO
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INVITE ONE PILOT AND ONE ENLISTED CREW MEMBER WHO FLEW

IN AIRLIFT FROM EACH OF ALLIES, LEAVING IT UP TO RESPECTIVE AIR FORCES TO MAKE SELECTION. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH SENAT ON GUEST LIST. DEPARTMENT EARLIER RAISED POSSIBILITY OF INVITING HIGH-RANKING US MILITARY OR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. SENAT HAS SUGGESTED SUCH NAMES AS MURPHY, MCGLOY RUSH AND SO WE WOULD APPRECIATE GURTHER GUIDANCE IN THIS REGARD. ALLIED AMBASSADORS

HAVE ALREADY BLOCKED OUT ANNIVERSARY ON THEIR CALENDARS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO PURSUE SENAT SUGGESTION FOR EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO WIDOWS OF AIRLIFT CREWS, BUT IN GENERAL SUPPORT SENAT APPROACH OF DIRECTING SPECIAL INVITATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAD DIRECT ROLE IN AIRLIFT OR IN BERLIN IN GENERAL.

3. ALL HONORED GUESTS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND ALLIED FORCES DAY CEREMONIES ON MAY 11 AS WELL AS GOVERNING MAYOR'S RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

4. ON EVENING OF MAY 11, SENAT WOULD HOST LARGE BANQUET FOR 800-900 PERSONS, WHICH WOULD SUBSTITUTE FOR CEREMONY FIRST PROPOSED AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. GOVERNING MAYOR WILL MAKE SPEECH AT DINNER AND SENAT HAS SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES ALSO SPEAK. SENIOR OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THREE ALLIES PRESUMABLY WOULD DO HONORS.

5. USUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT LUFTBRUECKE MEMORIAL ON MAY 12.

6. FOLLOWING WREATH-LAYING, OPEN-HOUSE PROGRAM WILL BE STAGED AT TEMPELHOF. (SENAT HAS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF OPEN HOUSES AT EACH OF THE THREE AIRPORTS, BUT WE BELIEVE ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH.) WE WOULD ENVISAGE BRINGING IN AIRCRAFT OF TYPE USED DURING AIRLIFT (U.S. C-54 NOW ON PERIMETER OF TEMPELHOF WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO OPEN-HOUSE AREA). WE UNDERSTAND THE BRITISH COULD PROVIDE HASTINGS AIRCRAFT, AND WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME FRENCH PARTICIPATION. AIR FORCE IS INQUIRING AS TO POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING IN MODERN AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT SUCH AS C-141.

7. SENAT PLANS PHOTOEXHIBIT, IN WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO PARTICATE, WITH ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY OF PERIODIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOWINGS IN HANGER AREA OF AIRLIFT FILM.

8. ALLIES HAV BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE MILITARY BANDS, AND WE SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THIS REQUEST.

9. REQUEST EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON ABOVE SCRIPT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANNING.

10 USCOB CONCURS.

KLEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, BERLIN AIR ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN00285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740237/aaaabigq.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, WB
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005